

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-15 IO-11 MMO-04 PA-02 /049 W

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R 041837Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7525

UNCLAS PARIS 03490

PLEASE PASS ARBA ADMINISTRATOR JOHN WARNER

E.O. 11652: N.A

TAGS: ACUL

SUBJECT: NEW YORK CITY BALLET

1. SECSTATE FOR CULTURE MICHEL GUY HAS RENEWED REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE WITH COSTS IMPORTING NYCITY BALLET FOR FALL 1976 SEASON WITH UTMOST URGENCY.

2. APPRECIATE YOUR GREAT EFFORTS TO DATE AND UNDERSTAND CONTINUING DIFFICULTY FINANCING ALL DESIRABLE BICENTENNIAL PROGRAMS, BUT SERIOUSNESS FRENCH REQUEST AND INDEED INSISTENCE THIS QUESTION MUST HAVE RESPONSE.

3. GUY DESCRIBED PROBLEM AS FOLLOWS: FRENCH GOVERNMENT NOW COMMITTED TWO AND ONE HALF MILLION DOLLARS (\$2,500,000), OR PREPONDERANT PART OF CURRENT FY INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL BUDGET, TO U.S. BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM. AMONG OTHER THINGS THIS INCLUDES SENDING PARIS OPERA AND PARIS ORCHESTRA TO U.S., GIFT OF QTE SOUND AND LIGHT ENDQTE SHOW TO MOUNT VERNON, SENDING OF NUMEROUS EXHIBITS, THEATER TROUPES, AND OTHER CULTURAL GROUPS TO U.S., GIFTS OF PAINTINGS, STATUES, BUSTS, ETC. FOR VARIOUS U. S. INSTITUTIONS.

4. GUY ESTIMATES NET DEFICIT FOR THREE WEEK SEASON OF NYCITY BALLET IN PARIS IN EXCESS OF HALF MILLION DOLLARS (\$500,000) AND BELIEVES U.S. SIDE SHOULD CONTRIBUTE MINIMUM OF \$200,000.

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5. NO DOUBT THAT NEW YORK BALLET, PARTICULARLY WITH UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND PERFORMING UNDER BICENTENNIAL SPONSORSHIP, WILL HAVE GREAT IMPACT ON BOTH FRENCH PUBLIC AND CULTURAL WORLD.

6. AS YOU KNOW RELATIONS WITH FRENCH GOVERNMENT GENERALLY AND CULTURAL COMMUNITY SPECIFICALLY ARE REACHING MOST POSITIVE LEVELS IN TWO DECADES. OBVIOUSLY IMPORTANT TO NATIONAL INTEREST WE ATTEMPT FOSTER AND SUPPORT THIS EVOLUTION.

7. CONTINUE TO HOPE SOME MEANS CAN BE FOUND SUPPORT THIS ENTERPRISE FROM U. S. SIDE. IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY PUTTING TOGETHER PACKAGE WHICH WOULD INCLUDE CONTRIBUTION FROM PRIVATE SOURCES, FOUNDATIONS FOR ARTS AND HUMANITIES, USIA, STATE (CU)? MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS WILL, OF COURSE, BE GIVEN PROPER CREDIT IN PUBLICITY AND PROGRAMS. USIS-PARIS PREPARED REPROGRAM IF NECESSARY TO COVER \$15,000 OR 7 1/2 PER CENT TOTAL.

8. BILL BLUE HAS FULL BACKGROUND AND CAN FURNISH FURTHER DETAIL.

9. YOUR HELP WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED, AS WELL AS ANY EARLY WORD ON PROSPECTS, HOWEVER TENTATIVE, WE CAN PASS TO MINISTER GUY. WARM REGARDS.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS03490
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760043-0461
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760283/aaaacuva.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW YORK CITY BALLET
TAGS: SCUL, FR, NEW YORK CITY BALLET, (GUY, MICHEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006